

There is nothing out there for us at this age. I am 52 years old and I have worked since I am thirteen. Most of my teen and adult years I worked two jobs while raising my children. At this age I should be enjoying life with my family and grandchildren however, I find myself scared, depressed and full of anxiety at the thought of perhaps finding myself homeless. I have only one check left and then I will have no income. My savings is totally gone, as a matter of fact I do not even have a bank account anymore. My credit is destroyed and I am in a serious financial crisis. The little \$288 dollars I receive from unemployment helps me keep food on the table and pay the minimum to my bills which are all behind. Thank God my son won a scholarship for college or else he might not have been able to further his education. I have to say I resent the Republicans for assuming that we the unemployed are lazy and do not look for work. Yes this might be the case for some however, there is good and bad in everything in life just as there are good Politicians and bad ones. That does not mean we must form a general opinion based on only a few. I am not a lazy person. As a matter of fact, I am willing to clean toilets if it means keeping a roof over my head and food on my table. Most Republicans are rich and will go home to a happy holiday, for many of us there will be no holiday. I cannot even afford to buy a tree this year. Please let the Republicans in the House know that many people, does not matter Democrat or Republican, are watching and are growing a real distaste for the cruel treatment we are getting. Thank you Congressman for you time."

STATEMENT REGARDING H.R. 10,
REINS ACT, DECEMBER 7, 2011

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 15, 2011

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise to strongly oppose the REINS Act (H.R. 10). This reckless legislation would put American families at risk while doing nothing to create jobs.

If enacted, H.R. 10 would delay and possibly block agency rulemaking in critical areas of public health and safety. This legislation would require that any "major" new rule be approved by Congress and the President within 70 legislative days. If Congress fails to act by the deadline, the proposed rule could not be reviewed again until the next Congress. My Republican colleagues do not deny this cumbersome process would prevent many new rules from taking effect. They argue preventing new rules is necessary to stimulate hiring and strengthen the economy.

The House Republican majority has used similar justifications to undermine existing regulations that create a level-playing field for business and protect the health and safety of American families. Earlier this month, Republicans passed the Regulatory Flexibility Improvements Act (H.R. 527) and Regulatory Accountability Act (H.R. 3010). These bills add new layers of bureaucracy intended to hamper enforcement of important environmental, labor, financial and food safety laws.

Evidence does not support Republican claims that federal regulation is to blame for persistently-high unemployment. According to

the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), only 0.3 percent of Americans laid off in 2010 lost their jobs due to "government regulations." In 2011, the BLS found even fewer layoffs attributable to regulations—0.18 percent. A McClatchy News survey of small businesses in August 2011 did not identify a single business owner who complained about regulation in their industry. In fact, McClatchy reported that "most seemed to welcome it and some pointed to the lack of regulation in mortgage lending as a principal cause of the financial crisis that brought about the Great Recession of 2007–9 and its grim aftermath."

Bruce Bartlett, a former advisor to Republican Presidents Ronald Reagan and George H.W. Bush, said congressional Republicans' anti-regulatory fervor has nothing to do with jobs. Bartlett recently wrote: "Regulatory uncertainty is a canard invented by Republicans that allows them to use current economic problems to pursue an agenda supported by the business community year in and year out. In other words, it is a simple case of political opportunism, not a serious effort to deal with high unemployment."

Economists from across the political spectrum agree the real impediment to hiring is weak demand in the economy. Increasing demand is the focus of President Obama's proposed American Jobs Act, which independent economists say would create over 1 million jobs. Despite the jobs crisis facing over 14 million Americans, House Republican leaders refuse to bring the American Jobs Act to the floor for a vote.

H.R. 10 and other anti-regulatory bills will not only fail to create jobs, they expose American families and small businesses to new and unnecessary risks. President Obama has threatened to veto the bill, arguing it would "delay and in many cases thwart" implementation of important rules and increase unnecessary confusion and uncertainty in the economy. The Coalition for Sensible Safeguards warns that H.R. 10 "would make it virtually impossible for federal agencies to ensure that American families are protected from tainted food, unsafe drugs, predatory financial schemes, dirty air and water, and dangerous workplaces."

Abandoning Americans to an unregulated marketplace is not a solution for economic growth—it is a sure threat to public safety. In recent years, many Americans have died as a result of E.coli and salmonella outbreaks in our food supply. A failure to enforce federal workplace safety standards resulted in the tragic deaths of 29 miners in West Virginia. Under-regulation allowed irresponsible bankers and mortgage lenders to destroy the education and retirement savings of millions of Americans. America is, in fact, facing a regulatory crisis. Not the crisis of "over-regulation" my Republican colleagues claim, but a series of crises resulting from a failure to enforce and enact common-sense rules.

Sensible regulation is necessary for an efficient, fair and innovative private market. But we should not be surprised that industry will not always support—and rarely ask—to be regulated. History shows that industry groups initially opposed new requirements for seat belts and air bags, limitations on mercury pollution and even restrictions against child labor. In the short-term, narrow private interests often conflict with the broader public interest. Over time, well-designed and consistently-en-

forced rules often prove to be less costly and more beneficial than originally expected.

Democrats and Republicans should be working together to improve the federal regulatory structure. Our shared focus in Congress should be on reforming regulations to increase results and reduce costs. Partisan attempts to weaken common sense rules and protections will not make our economy—or our country—stronger.

I urge my colleagues to reject H.R. 10 because it undermines public safety and distracts Congress from the urgent task of creating jobs.

HONORING VICTOR GRIFOLS
ROURA—SPAIN-U.S. CHAMBER OF
COMMERCE 2011 BUSINESS LEADER
OF THE YEAR

HON. JUDY CHU

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 15, 2011

Ms. CHU. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mr. Victor Grifols Roura on being honored as the 2011 Business Leader of the Year by the Spain-U.S. Chamber of Commerce. Mr. Grifols Roura is President and CEO of Grifols, a global healthcare company with U.S. headquarters in my congressional district in Los Angeles.

Founded in Barcelona, Spain in 1940, Grifols is a leading producer of plasma protein therapies essential for the treatment of a variety of rare, chronic and often life-threatening diseases including: hemophilia, von-Willibrand disease, primary immune deficiencies, and alpha-1 antitrypsin deficiency. All of Grifols medicines are derived from human plasma collected at one of the company's 147 plasma donation centers across the country.

For three generations, the Grifols family has been dedicated to improving the lives of patients around the world. One of the company's founders, Dr. Jose Antonio Grifols Roig, developed the plasma donation technique known as plasmapheresis with Dr. Edward Cohn in 1950. Still the method of choice today, plasmapheresis is an automated process that enables individuals to donate plasma while retaining their red blood cells, white blood cells and platelets. This groundbreaking invention gave rise to the modern plasma therapeutics industry.

Mr. Speaker, Grifols employs 700 people in its corporate, manufacturing, warehousing, and testing facilities in California's 32nd District. The company has invested \$135 million in these facilities since 2003 and is moving forward with plans to add 70 new manufacturing jobs.

As part of its commitment to Los Angeles, Grifols supports local organizations that promote education, job training and skills development for area residents. Through an industry partnership with Los Angeles Trade Technical College, Grifols devises curricula and hosts seminars in microbiology, manufacturing, interviewing techniques and resume preparation. Graduating students are given the opportunity to tour the Grifols manufacturing facility and learn about the production of plasma therapies.

Grifols also partners with the Wilshire-Metro WorkSource Center, which provides workforce